

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Summary*
1. A method of downloading a program to a data processor,
comprising:
- 5 providing the program in an executable file together with information indicative
of a condition needed for execution of the program; and
based on said condition information, downloading the program to a data processor
which satisfies said condition.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said downloading step includes
configuring the data processor based on said condition information.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said downloading step includes selecting
the data processor based on said condition information.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said providing step includes providing
the program and the condition information in a COFF executable file.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said providing step includes using a
20 compiler/linker to combine a first file containing the condition information with a second
file containing the program.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said providing step includes providing the condition information in a non-downloadable section of the executable file.

5 7. A method of producing an executable file containing a program for execution by a data processor, comprising:
providing information indicative of a condition needed for execution of the program; and
10 integrating said condition information with the program in the executable file.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said condition information includes information indicative of a data processor platform requirement of said program.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said condition information includes
15 information indicative of a data processor setup parameter associated with said program.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein said integrating step includes using a compiler/linker to combine a first file containing the condition information with a second file containing the program.

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein said providing step includes converting input information into said condition information which is suitable for integration with the program in the executable file.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein said integrating step includes providing said condition information in a non-downloadable section of said executable file.

13. The method of Claim 7, wherein said executable file is a COFF executable file.

14. A method of producing a database from which a first data processor can obtain information about a program to be downloaded to a second data processor, comprising:

providing a plurality of programs;

for each of said programs, providing information indicative of a condition needed for execution of the program; and

for each of said programs, integrating the corresponding condition information into an executable file along with the program, and storing the executable file in a file storage facility.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said condition information includes information indicative of a data processor platform requirement of said program.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said condition information includes information indicative of a data processor setup parameter associated with said program.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein said executable file is a COFF executable file.

18. The method of Claim 14, wherein said integrating step includes using a compiler/linker to combine a first file containing the condition information with a second file containing the program.

19. The method of Claim 14, wherein said information providing step includes converting input information into said condition information which is suitable for integration with the program in the executable file.

20. The method of Claim 14, including providing universally unique identifiers for uniquely identifying each of the respective programs and their respectively corresponding condition information, said integrating step including, for each of the

programs, integrating the corresponding universally unique identifier into the executable file along with the program and the corresponding condition information.

21. The method of Claim 14, wherein said integrating step includes
5 integrating said plurality of programs and their corresponding condition information into a single executable file.

22. The method of Claim 14, wherein said storing step includes storing in the
file storage facility a plurality of executable files, each of which includes a program and
10 its corresponding condition information.

23. A data processing apparatus, comprising:
a first data processor;
a file storage facility coupled to said first data processor, said file storage facility
15 including an executable file containing a program and information indicative of a
condition needed for execution of said program; and
said first data processor including an interface for obtaining said program and said
condition information from said file storage facility, said first data processor responsive
to said condition information for downloading said program to a second data processor
20 which satisfies said condition.

24. A data processing system, comprising:

a first data processor;

a second data processor coupled to said first data processor;

a file storage facility coupled to said first data processor, said file storage facility

5 including an executable file containing a program and information indicative of a
condition needed for execution of said program; and

said first data processor including an interface for obtaining said program and said
condition information from said file storage facility, said first data processor responsive
to said condition information for downloading said program to said second data processor
10 if said second data processor satisfies said condition.

25. The system of Claim 24, provided on a single integrated circuit chip.

26. The system of Claim 25, including a man/machine interface coupled to
15 said first data processor for permitting communication between said first data processor
and a user.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein said man/machine interface includes at
least one of a tactile interface and a visual interface.

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28. The system of Claim 24, wherein said first data processor is a microprocessor and said second data processor is a digital signal processor.

29. The system of Claim 24, including a third data processor coupled to said first data processor.

30. The system of Claim 29, provided on a single integrated circuit chip.

31. The system of Claim 24, including a man/machine interface coupled to said first data processor for permitting communication between said first data processor and a user.

32. The system of Claim 31, wherein said man/machine interface includes at least one of a tactile interface and a visual interface.

33. The system of Claim 24, wherein said first data processor is operable for configuring said second data processor based on said condition information.